

Literary Multicultural Novels by Author LAURA RESAU



These novels fit in beautifully with Reading, English, Spanish, Geography, ELL, and most Social Studies curricula (Hispanic, Immigration, and Indigenous Peoples themes). All of these novels have won awards, garnered multiple starred reviews, and been selected for prestigious lists. Find teachers' guides at <http://www.lauraresau.com/resources.html>

Star in the Forest (Gr. 3-6, Lexile 780, 150 pgs) When 11-year-old Zitlally's father is deported to Mexico, she takes emotional refuge in her trailer park's "forest" of rusted car parts. With the help of spunky neighbor Crystal, she tries to save her father by aiding a stray dog who she believes is her father's spirit animal. *Delacorte/Random House*

The Lightning Queen (Gr. 5-9, Lexile 790) An indigenous boy and a Romani (Gypsy) girl form a friendship in rural Mexico that spans the rest of their lives and embraces magic, music, and predictions of impossible destinies. *Scholastic (audiobook available)*

What the Moon Saw (Gr. 5-9, Lexile 750) 14-year-old Clara Luna travels to Oaxaca, Mexico to visit the mysterious grandparents she's never met before. In their remote village, she discovers a part of the world and a part of herself she never knew existed. *Delacorte/Random House and Yearling*

Red Glass (Gr. 6-12, Lexile 800)-- 16-year-old Sophie takes a road trip from Tucson to southern Mexico and Guatemala with four unlikely companions, and finds herself opening up to love and adventure along the way. *Delacorte/Random House (audiobook available)*

The Queen of Water (Gr. 7-12, Lexile 890) Co-written with María Virginia Farinango, this true story begins in an impoverished community in the Ecuadorian Andes. As a seven-year-old, Virginia becomes an unpaid servant in a *mestizo* household, where she struggles to hold on to her spirit. At age sixteen, after escaping, she must rebuild her life and reclaim her indigenous identity. *Delacorte/Random House*

www.LauraResau.com



About Laura Resau

With a background in cultural anthropology and ESL-teaching, author Laura Resau has lived and traveled extensively in Latin America. Popular among children, teens, and adults, her novels have garnered many starred reviews and awards, including the IRA YA Fiction Award, the Américas Award, and spots on Oprah's Kids' Book List. Acclaimed for its sensitive treatment of immigration and indigenous issues, Resau's writing has been called "vibrant, large-hearted" (Publishers' Weekly, starred for *Red Glass*) and "powerful, magical" (Booklist, starred for *What the Moon Saw*). Resau lives with her husband and young son in Colorado. She donates a portion of her royalties to indigenous rights organizations in Latin America.

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Other Multicultural & Diverse Children's and YA novels

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins

Enchanted Air by Margarita Engle (novel in verse)

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney (novel in verse)

El Deafo by Cece Bell (graphic novel)

Caminar by Skyla Brown (novel in verse)

Recommended by other educators in this session:

For more ideas, see the American Library Association website for lists of yearly award-winners and best books (Notable Children's Books, Best Fiction for YA, and others), grouped by age and genre. <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb> and <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bookawards/booklists/members>

Also see the Cooperative Children's Book Center, grouped by age and theme: <http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/default.asp>

See the Américas Award (Latino and Caribbean) lists here: <http://claspprograms.org/pages/detail/68/Award-Winners>

There are also great blogs with multicultural book lists. Try:

<http://www.pragmaticmom.com/booklists/multicultural-books-for-children>